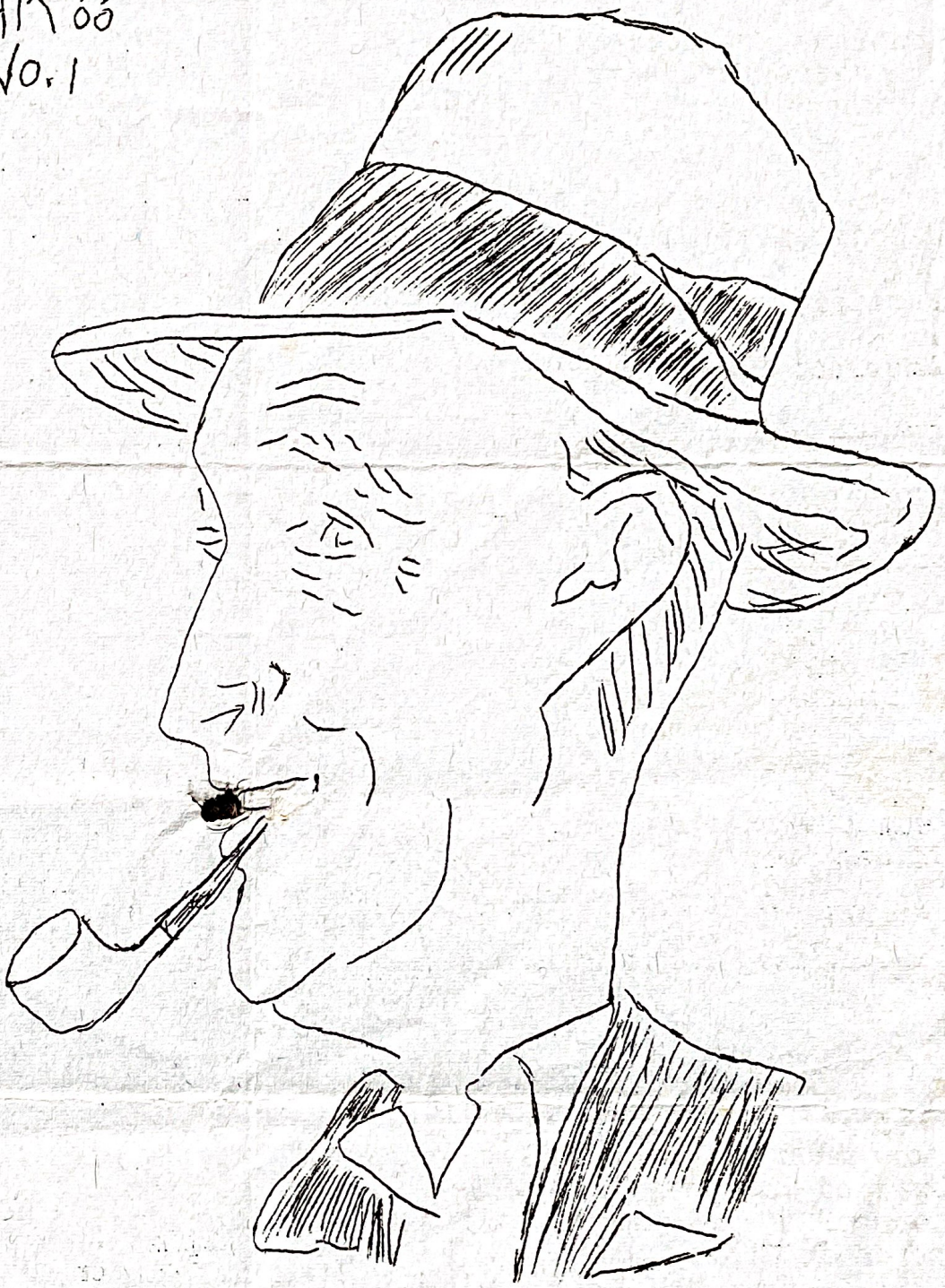
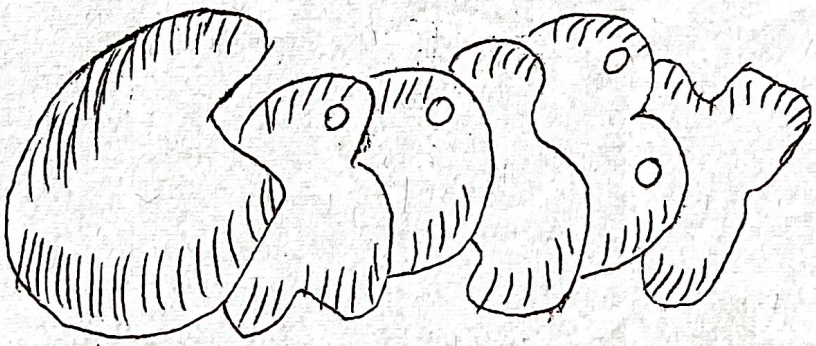
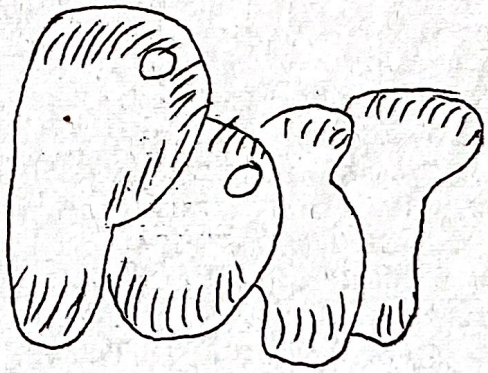
NINTH YEAR!!
(NEW SERIES) NO. 1
APRIL 1959







PRIVATE JOURNAL OF THE
BRITISH CROSBY SOCIETY

EJL

THE BRITISH CROSBY SOCIETY

Honorary President: BING CROSBY.
Hon.Vice-President: LARRY CROSBY.
Active Co-Presidents: Dorothy Hardiman, Midland Bank Flat, 120, High Street, Smethwick, Staffs.
Frank Murphy, 15, Grosvenor Gardens, High Howdon, Northumberland.
Discologist: William Taylor, 27, Torrington Square, Holborn, London, W.C.1.
Publicity Officer: Ted Laker, 36, Villiers Road, Southsea, Hants.
American Correspondent: Pat Sullivan, 3134, North 53rd Street, Milwaukee 16, Wisconsin, U.S.A.

Honorary Members:
MICHAEL HOLLIDAY, TED RAY, PAT BOONE, ALAN LADD, JOAN REGAN, NORMAN WISDOM, ELVIS PRESLEY, JIM WILSON.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

The British Crosby Society was formed in March 1950 with the permission of our Hon.President-Harry Lillis (Bing) Crosby.
The Club magazine "Crosby Post" is published bi-monthly by the Society at 15, Grosvenor Gardens, High Howdon, Northumberland.
"Crosby Post" is edited by Dorothy Hardiman and Frank Murphy.
The cover is designed by Ted Laker.
The yearly membership fee is 7/6d and an 'X' here_____signified that your subscription is now due.
Please remit by blank postal order, direct to Dorothy Hardiman.

C R O Z T A L K

Hi there !

We are very grateful for all donations, stamps, etc., sent in to us since the last issue of the Post. The outlook is now much brighter, thanks to your help. We would however like to remind you that prompt renewals are essential in estimating the number of journals required and we would appreciate your co-operation in this respect.

FILM SHOW ... Bill Taylor and Ron Chaplin have arranged a showing of "Going Hollywood" at Bill's home on Sunday May 10th at 3.30p.m. A small charge of 2/- will be made to cover costs. Will those of you who wish to see this 1933 Crosby classic, please send your 2/- along to Dot, not later than April 30th.

While on the subject of films, we have been informed by the Crosby Office that Bing will not now do "Bachelor Baby" for Fox. No reasons were given so we must assume that Bing felt the part was unsuitable.

NEW HONORARY MEMBER ... We extend a cordial welcome to our new Honorary Member ELVIS PRESLEY, the 24 year old boy from Memphis who gave up truck driving to become the Rock n Roll King and the idol of millions of teenagers the world over. (Contd.on p.3:)

CROZ TALK (Contd.):

In accepting an Honorary Membership in the British Presley Club, Bing said: "I consider Presley an unusually fine performer who pioneered a new style and made good in a very big way". We couldn't agree more and we're proud to have you with us Elvis.

Our Honeymoon Couple, Iris and Joe Bates sail for the States on April 25th and we would like to give them something to remember us by. Joe has four more months service with the U.S. army and then they start building a new home on the Bates potato farm in Iowa. Any suggestions for a suitable gift will be welcome.

Many members have written in to say how much they appreciate our raffling Bing's rare early discs, but our supplies of same are not inexhaustable. If you have any spare discs that you can bear to part with; we shall be pleased to hear from you.

Alan Ladd writes from Hollywood: "Just a note to thank you for my copy of the Society's Journal. We all enjoy "Crosby Post" enormously, and I noted particularly the re-issue list of those early Brunswick recordings. All good solid songs.
Sue wishes to be remembered to you all.....

That seems to be all for now, so please keep those letters coming in so that we can judge whether we are pleasing some of you some of the time, or all of you all of the time.
Until June, "Aloha", Bingcerely, Dot and Frank.

.....

Story of Bing's new film "SAY ONE FOR ME" 20th Century Fox.
Producer/Director: Frank Tashlin.
Songs by Jimmy Van Heuson and Sammy Cahn.

Pastor of a Catholic church in a theatrical section of New York; Bing Crosby is upset when Debbie Reynolds, needing money for the support of her ailing father, goes to work in a second rate night-club whose show is produced by Robert Wagner, a man of unsavory reputation in regard to women.

What follows then is the essence of a struggle between Bing and Wagner for Debbie. The former seeking her soul, the latter her body. Bing wins the people around Wagner - Ray Walston, Wagner's alcoholic accompanist, and the various chorines and other members of the little group - but Wagner appears to be winning Debbie. As his ultimate card, Bing offers Wagner a spot on a giant charity TV show he is staging - an opportunity Wagner has sought for years - in return for his relinquishment of Debbie. Wagner agrees, but in his moment of triumph a minor incident brings a stark moment of self relitation which he attempts to expiate by withdrawing from the show. The action of this sinner also serves to remind Bing that he is an instrument of God's will and not his chief planner. The final scene shows Debbie and Wagner driving off after a wedding ceremony performed by Bing.
SONGS: "Say One For Me"(Bing) "The Secret Of Christmas"(Bing) Reymolds, Wagner. "I Couldn't Care Less"(Bing) "You Can't Love 'em All"(Wagner) "You're Starting to Get Me"(Reynolds) "The Girl Most Likely to Succeed" (Wagner and Reynolds).

.....

Pat Sullivan presents -

"AMERICAN NEWSLETTER"

San Francisco News - "Film Priest" Bing not afraid of being typed - by Vernon Scott.

Jan.16th. Debbie Reynolds and Robert Wagner were married in a solemn Catholic ceremony this week with Bing Crosby performing the rites.

The marriage is part of a new movie which co-stars Crosby, Wagner and Debbie - marking the third time Der Bingle has portrayed a priest.

"Not easy playing a man of the Cloth", Bing observed in his casual manner. "Gotta be careful not to offend anyone. Also gotta take lot of kidding from some of my priest friends. They watch my every move and kid the socks off me if I goof".

"No danger of my being type-cast" ; the Groaner said. "It's been 14 years since I played my last padre part."

"But I've got to watch myself more closely this time than ever - so I won't slip into my own characteristics. The picture basically is a story of show business, and a priest who is closely associated with show people."

"I have to be especially careful in my scenes with Debbie. We do a song with Debbie wearing toreador and pants and looking very attractive and naturally I can't make it look like a boy and girl number". "Also in this picture I perform part of the traditional mass. That'll give my clergymen fri[illegible] a field day criticizing my technique".

Bing, a Roman Catholic, attends mass every Sunday, and has donated generously to his Faith. He has a ready answer for queries as to why Catholic priests are more frequently portrayed in films as compared to other religions. "There seems to be more comedy around Catholics" he grinned. "I guess it's because the Irish and Italians are more voluble than other people. Then too, our religion has great drama in it, and our services contain pageantry and colour".

Crosby sat back in an easy chair in his dressing room,running a finger through his Roman collar. He looked uncomfortable, and no wonder for Bing almost lives in sports shirts when he's not before the cameras. "If the right story come along I'd like to do a picture with my boys - all of 'em or any of 'em he laughed, "including little Tex. But I doubt very much if it would be a religious picture".

BING CROSBY'S FIRST (NEW ACTS) NOTICE = from VARIETY, Oct.6 1926.

CROSBY AND RINKER "SONGS" Granada, San Fransisco.

Two boys from Spokane and not new to show business but new to picture-house work. They appeared with Will Morrissey's Music Hall Show and were a success in a show that was a flop. Bringing their methods to the Granader, they registered solidly and on the crowded Sunday performances practically stopped the show.

The duo works with a piano and minus orchestral accompaniment.Blues of the feverish variety are their speciality. They are well equipped with material,presumably their own. Young and clean cut,the boys found a quick welcome. (Contd.on p 5:)

Variety Review (Contd.):

When they have completed their weeks locally, they will unquestionably find a market for their wares in other presentation houses. Wherever the public goes for 'hot' numbers served hot, Crosby and Rinker ought to have an easy time.

The above probably may be the first national, and/or tradepaper review of Bing Crosby ever printed. It predates the millionaire-to-be forming a trio with the said Al Rinker and Harry Bariss within the Paul Whiteman family.

NOV.21 1958. "HOW BING WAS SIGNED BY CBS".

New York Herald Tribune, Inc.

CBS Chairman, William S.Paley, honored by the Broadcast Pioneers at a Luncheon yesterday, spoke interestingly about the early days of CBS Radio, where Bing Crosby played a prominent part. Paley first heard Crosby's voice blaring from a record on an ocean liner bound for Europe. He immediately sent a radiogram to the network's artist bureau in New York, suggesting Crosby be signed by CBS.

"When I got home some weeks later", Paley related, "I asked what had been done", the answer was: 'Nothing".

"Inquiry had developed the opinion from Los Angeles, where Crosby was singing at the Coconut Grove, that he was a rather flighty young fellow, unlikely to fit in well to the strict broadcasting schedules, so the matter had been dropped. I said I did not care nearly so much about how much this young man observed the calendar as I did about his voice, so please get going. This proved arduous. It seemed that our display of interest had been sniffed by the competition. This was conveyed to us as a hint that the Crosby services would not come cheap. At this time, $100 a week was a good guarantee for an unknown singer on a substaining show, so I was properly stunned when the enterprising Crosby lawyer said that his client's fee would be $2,000 a week, take it or leave it. I did neither, but I did eventually agree to what seemed the fantastic sum of $1,500 a week guarantee, wondering why I was doing it."

Mr.Paley ceased wondering several weeks' later, of course, when the whole country started talking about 'this great new vocalist', Bing Crosby.

E.N.D.

****

Copies of the 24-page booklet "The Long-Playing Mr.Crosby" which contains full information on every Bing Crosby L.P. and E.P.record issued in this country up to November 1958, are available from Frank. To obtain your copy send a blank 2/- Postal Order to Frank together with a large self-addressed envelope.

****

BING CROSBY CHATTER

By Leslie D.Gaylor.

So far, 1959 has kicked off well in the way of record releases and particularly pleasing is Bing's magnificent rendering of the song "Gigi". This I think is real Crosby at last. Actually, the

Crosby Chatter (Contd.):
true Bing voice for some 3 or 4 years with plenty of tone and depth in it, in effect the masculine Crosby trade mark quality.

Ironically enough there are too few of these type of recordings now-a-days and I think that the "Gigi" recording is proof beyond doubt that American Decca recording engineers are the 'masters' at bringing the best of Bing out.

It is my regret that Bing broke up his long association with American Decca to gain a free-lance status, the main reason being that the other concerns that have recorded him have not equalled American Decca. Capitol, RCA and Verve have tended to record his voice on equal level with the accompanying orchestras', the consequence being a loss of quality of the voice.

The orchestras' have been recorded rather loud, this resulting in the fact that Bing has to be listened to at a reduced volume level. CBS engineers however, have done great justice to the 'golden voice'. May Bing record more often for American Decca, and in sentimental mood with 'Moon-June' lyrics in preference to the swingy type of recording that Bing has done a lot of lately. Lush violin orchestras' with a heavy base thumping out, suit Bing 10 times better than a loud over-recorded and often brassy accompaniment, however, I find all Bing releases most welcome. Throughout 1958 I was constantly writing to American sources requesting that Bing would record more, and that some of the already recorded but unissued recordings could be released, and I have now written to the Rev.Jos[illegible] Devlin, a Catholic priest who is very close to Bing. I have ask[illegible]n a 6-page letter to contact Bing personally for me, poin[illegible] out many views on the present day record shortage.

I have to thank Mr.Georgie Wood of the Record Mirror for this great contact, as it ensures that my letter will go further than the Crosby Office. To get direct to the 'Great Man' has long been my ambition.

Of late, I have had some very welcome letters from the Editor of the Valentine. He has taken up my suggestion that an article about Bing should appear in his magazine. The basis being to let the teenagers know just what the "MIGHTY BING" really has,and still stands for.

"Fontana" tell me that they are watching the sales of their last 10" LP of "Crosby Classics". This will decide upon further Bing releases from them. So if you can manage it, please get their LP releases in order to safeguard and guarantee future releases. They still have "Moonstruck", "I've Got to Pass your House"(B Master). "Down the Old Ox Road" and "Temptation" with Lennie Hayton's piano cut out in the middle, still not issued.

Finally, may I suggest to members that you write to the Crosby Office and American Decca, requesting that Bing may record more, and that unissued recordings may be issued. We must have a better release of Bing records, so let us try by putting pen to paper as soon as possible. Here are the addresses, the rest is up to you !.

THE BING CROSBY OFFICE, 9028, Sunset Boulevard, Hollywood,
Los Angeles, 46, California, U.S.A.
DECCA RECORDS INC. 50th West 57th St.,New York, 19, New York,U.S.A.

Leslie D.Gaylor.

TOM DISKIN, Manager to Elvis Presley,
Madison, Tennessee, U.S.A.

Dear Mrs.Hardiman,

Elvis is delighted to be invited as an Honorary Member of The British Crosby Society and sends his very sincere thanks to you and the members for your invitation. Elvis, like everyone in America, considers Bing tops, and we all hold him in great respect and admiration.

I appreciate also, your sending along your Club Journal which I consider excellent, and I want you to know that through it I have learned more about Bing than I have ever known before.

By way of news on Elvis - the teenagers of America have named him number-one male vocalist, and his song "One Night" was made No.1 Song of the Year on the American Bandstand Poll. This is the third year he has won this nonour. He is continuing his duties as a soldier in the tank division in Germany, and upon his release from the army in March 1960 is scheduled for six pictures, three of which are to be made in the first year he is out of the service. His ambition is to become a good actor.

Elvis has asked me to be sure and emphasize his appreciation of your interest and kind invitation. He is deeply grateful to all the fans in Great Britain and says that Bing must be proud of you and your work for him.

Best wishes to you and all your members,
from Elvis and

Tom Diskin

A biography of Elvis Presley will appear in our next edition.
For details of the Official Elvis Presley Club, send s.a.e. to
Miss Joanne Saword, 24, Clarendon Flats, Mayfair, W.1.

"THE GROANER IN THE GROOVE". By Bill Taylor.

I seemed to be in a slight minority when I stated that I was disappointed with "Gigi", but I still stand by what I said before. The lovely deep notes are there, admittedly, but I still say it's NOT a good Bing !!. I shall probably stir up something on the 12"L.P. RCA - RD - 27105 which I firmly believe is one of the best he has done recently. Rosemary Clooney seems to have a similar effect on the 'Groaner' as Satchmo. Hear them Cha-Cha on Brazil, and you'll see what I mean. Some of the numbers are good oldies, and one or two brand-new ones, like: "You Came a Long Way from St.Louis" and "How about you". But is was the oldies like "Slow Boat to China", "It Happened in Montery" (another done in CHA-CHA) "Brazil" "Isle of Capri" (Some very nice mandolin playing here) anyway here is the full line-up: "Hancy Meeting You Here", "On a Slow Boat to China", "I Can't Get Started", "Hindustan", "It Happened in Monterey", "You Came a Long Way from St.Louis", "Love Won't let you Get Away", "How About You", "Brazil",Calcutta" "Isle of Capri", and "Say Si Si". Incidentally, this disc is obtainable in Srereophonic at exactly the same price - 37/6½. LAT - 8278, BRUNSWICK .. "WHEN IRISH EYES ARE SMILING" price 37/6½. This one really has me puzzles, when one knows that already there has been a 10" LP-LA8606, with 6 of the titles issues on side I, of the 12" LP.(The only titles omitted are: (Contd.p.8):

"With my Shilleiagh Under my Arm - St.Patrick's Day Parade"). Many of the same titles were covered including the two just mentioned, on "Shilleiaghs and Shamrocks" LAT 8106. But most of all - how did Tobermorey Bay get shifted to Ireland ??. Here are the complete titles:- "When Irish Eyes are Smiling","Rose of Tralee", "Galway Bay", "My Girl's an Irish Girl", "How Can you buy Killarney", "Eileen", "Danny Boy", "Too-Ra-Loo-Ra-Loo-Ral","Tumbledown Shack in Athlone", "I'll Take you Home Again Kathleen", "Isle of Innisfree", "Tobormory Bay".

The following L.P. has just been released: Brunswick LAT 8281 - 37/6½. "BING CROSBY SINGS" Titles .. "Chattanoogie Shoe Shine Boy" "Who Gave you The Roses", "No Other Love","Keep it a Secret""In The Good Old Summertime""Stranger In Paradise""Changing Partners" "Clementine""Love In A Home""I Still See Elisa" and "Let's Harmonize". Only one title has not been issued on 78, and that is "Vaya Con Dios", but that was issued before on a IO" LP "Bing Sings The Hits".-END.

Bill Taylor presents: EXCHANGE & MART - your own free Section.

Frank Grant, 5, Portland Terrace,Nairn,Scotland,has for Sale:
10"L.P.33s 1036. Crosby Classics.....New 15/-.
Aus-Col 07001 Evening Star(pic label Whiteman
Slightly cracked -plays perfect..10/-.
Fr-Col 4981. Taint So, Honey.(Cracked plays perfect).....10/-.
Ind-Col DB 30092..(Can't trace title.[illegible]ew.....15/-.
Am Decca 2359 (Blue Label)East Side H[illegible]g Sunbeams.....10/-.
Rex 8957 - Home On The Range/Blue Prelud[illegible].....G..... 5/-.
Bruns.01197.Million Dollard Baby/I'm Thro[illegible]n with Love..New... 2/6.
" 01434.Bro.Can You Spare a Dime/You're Still In My Heart.10/-.
" 01563.Got to Sing a Torch Song/Old Ox Roa[illegible]...New.....10/-.
" 04098.Careless Hands/Riders in the Sky.....E..... 2/6.
" 04442.Chattanoogie Shoe Shine Boy/Sorry.....E..... 2/6.
" 04606.Marshmallow World/All My Love.....E..... 2/6.
HMV B2779.What price lyrics/From Monday On(sealed crack)..... 5/-.
" B5317.Magnolia.....New..... 5/-.
" B5504.My Pet.....G..... 5/-.
" B5541.I'm Afraid of you/Grieving..(2 copies each)..New.... 5/-.
Voice Stars VS2-Bing sings part of "Every breath I take". New. 7/6.
Australian private pressing..It's within your power..... 7/6.

The following discs are included free of charge to anyone wishing to purchase the whole of the above:.....£6. 0. 0.
2 x 10" LPs 8529-El Bingo and 8533-South Pacific(badly scratched)and one 12"Crosby radio show-1952 and one 12" private dubbing of Paul Whiteman show 1947, Bing's TV debut - test pressings and airshots.

FAN CLUB CORNER... Pat Boone's English Fan Club, invites new members. For full details send a S.A.E. to President: Miss Maureen Wright, 102, Doughlas Road, Handsworth, Birmingham, 21.

STOP PRESS !

Bing and Pat Boone to do Movie together.
Details next 'Post'.